

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

### CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION

#### DIVERSION (feet) CODE 362

#### SCOPE

This specification covers the installation of diversions. Construction shall be in accordance with the plans and these specifications.

#### INSTALLATION

**Site Preparation.** All ditches or gullies shall be filled, and undesirable trees and other obstructions shall be removed before construction begins. All vegetation shall be removed before the placement of earth fill.

**Earthwork.** The diversion shall be constructed to the lines and grades set in the field or to the dimensions shown on the plans.

If underground conduits are located under diversion ridges, mechanical compaction, or water packing should be required. Installation and backfill of conduit trenches shall be made in advance to allow adequate settlement.

The materials used for installed inlets and underground conduits shall be suitable for the purpose intended and shall meet the requirements for subsurface drains (606).

The embankment shall contain no trees, brush, rubbish, or other perishable materials.

The top of the constructed fill shall not be lower at any point than the design elevation, plus an overfill of at least 10 percent for settlement.

Diversion ridges constructed across gullies or depressions shall be compacted by machinery travel or other means sufficient to insure proper functioning of the diversion. The surface of the finished diversion shall be reasonably smooth and present a workmanlike appearance.

Every effort shall be made to protect the diversion outlet. If a vegetated outlet is already established, heavy equipment movement in the outlet during diversion construction shall be closely controlled.

**Vegetation.** Diversion channels designed for vegetative cover shall be established to grass as soon as practicable after construction. Grass species, planting time and method, and fertilizer application rates shall be as shown on the plans.

Topsoil should be stockpiled and spread over excavations and other areas to facilitate restoration of vegetation.

## **SAFETY**

Diversion ridges, especially those with steep backslopes, can be very hazardous. For this reason some farmers prefer steep front slopes also, thus keeping machinery away from the steep back slopes. All cut slopes and fills that are to be farmed must be no steeper than that on which farm equipment can operate safely. Any hazards must be brought to the attention of the responsible person.

Landowners or operators, sponsoring organizations, and contractors are liable for damage to utilities and damage resulting from disruption of service caused by construction activities. The Natural Resources Conservation Service makes no representation on the existence or nonexistence of any utilities. Absence of utilities on plan drawings is not assurance that no utilities are present at the site.

It is the responsibility of the landowner or operator to determine if there are buried or overhead utilities in the vicinity of the proposed work. They should take proper procedures to insure that the utilities will not be jeopardized and that equipment operators and others will not be injured during construction operations.

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

A maintenance program shall be developed to maintain diversion capacity, storage, ridge height, and the outlets. Each intake of underground outlets must be kept clean and sediment buildup redistributed so the inlet is in the lowest place. Inlets damaged or cut off by farm machinery must be replaced or repaired immediately. Outlets shall be kept clear or open at all times.

Vegetated diversions shall be mowed and maintained at a height of 6- to 12- inches. Trees and shrubs shall be controlled by hand, machine, or chemicals.